

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection thereof by removing the improper multiple references and reciting the use of the apparatus of claims 6 and 7 by supplying a feedstock thereto.

§ 102 Rejection

Claim 6 has been rejected as being anticipated by the Bartholic patent (U.S. 5,584,986). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the recited conduit means 8 that provides means for transferring spent catalyst directly from the dense phase stripping zone to the regeneration zone without having to pass through a separate separation step. It is respectfully suggested that this conduit means is not disclosed by the Bartholic patent, therefore, the Bartholic patent does not anticipate claim 6.

§ 103 Rejection

Claims 1-5 and 7 have been rejected as being obvious over the Bartholic patent (U.S. 5,584,986). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner recites a lengthy list of elements and limitations that are recited in Applicant's claims but which are not disclosed in the cited Bartholic reference. See Examiner's Office Action at paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5. No other prior art reference is cited by the Examiner for the purpose of supplying the limitations not disclosed by the Bartholic patent. Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner's relied upon prior art references must teach or suggest all the limitations in the claims in order to establish a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness. See MPEP § 706.02(j). Since the single Bartholic patent, without at least an additionally cited reference to supply the missing limitations, fails to disclose all of the claim limitations, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-5 and 7 are patentable over the cited Bartholic reference.

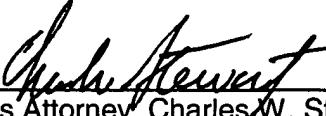
Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant suggests that claims 1-9 are patentable over the cited prior art, therefore, early allowance thereof is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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